

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2048

SECVISIT: 31ST UNGA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, UNGA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND

BULGARIAN

FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV

REF: STATE 231614

1. WHILE THERE ARE NO MAJOR OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN BULGARIA AND THE US THAT REQUIRE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND MLADENOV, THERE IS ONE SUBJECT THAT COULD BE USEFULLY RAISED BY THE SECRETARY IF SUCH MEETING EVENTUATES: THAT WE WILL BE LOOKING VERY CLOSELY AT BULGARIA'S BEHAVIOR DURING ANY SUCCESSION CRISIS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

2. IF THIS IS RAISED BY THE SECRETARY, MLADENOV WILL PROBABLY PROTEST THAT BULGARIA HAS BEEN "TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK" IN THE FACE OF YUGOSLAV CAMPAIGN OVER THE STATUS OF MACEDONIANS IN BULGARIA. THERE IS NO NEED FOR US TO PASS JUDGMENT ON THE MERITS OF THAT CONTROVERSY BUT APPROVAL COULD BE EXPRESSED FOR BULGARIAN RESTRAINT COUPLED WITH POINTED REMARK THAT WE WILL BE WATCHING TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN THAT ATTITUDE OF RESTRAINT WHEN IT REALLY MATTERS. THIS WOULD
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BE IN LINE WITH WHAT THE SECRETARY TOLD MLADENOV IN HEL-

SINKI, THAT THERE IS NO REASON WHY OUR RELATIONS SHOULD NOT DEVELOP FURTHER PROVIDED BULGARIA CREATES NO DIFFICULTIES FOR ITS NEIGHBORS AND REFRAINS FROM HARASSING US IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA.

3. IF THE SECRETARY SEES MLADENOV, HE MIGHT ALSO EXPRESS SATISFACTION IN THE SLOW BUT STEADY PROGRESS WE HAVE SEEN LATELY IN OUR RELATIONS. MORE DIVIDED FAMILY CASES HAVE BEEN FAVORABLY RESOLVED, TRADE IS INCREASING, AND THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS GESTURES OF COURTESY IN CONNECTION WITH THE BICENTENNIAL. WE COULD ALSO EXPRESS SATISFACTION AT THE GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT OF CULTURAL RELATIONS AND THE IMMINENT INITIALING OF THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT. BUT THERE IS STILL SOME WAY TO GO BEFORE RELATIONS IN THAT AREA COULD BE TERMED NORMAL.

4. WITH RESPECT TO CSCE, THE SECRETARY SHOULD NOT LET MLADENOV'S USUAL CLAIMS ABOUT METICULOUS BULGARIAN IMPLEMENTATION GO UNCHALLENGED. ON DECEMBER 29, 1975 MLADENOV TOLD ME THAT LIMITED QUANTITIES OF FOREIGN (NON-COMMUNIST) NEWSPAPERS WERE AVAILABLE IN SOFIA HOTELS. THIS WAS NOT TRUE. WHEN CHALLENGED, HE LATER SAID HIS STATEMENT HAD BEEN "PREMATURE". IT IS HARD TO SEE WHY THIS STEP OF IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD TAKE SO LONG, PARTICULARLY SINCE MLADENOV TOLD ME THAT HIS DECEMBER 1975 STATEMENT HAD BEEN BASED ON GOB DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO LIBERALIZE AT LEAST TO SOME EXTENT DISSEMINATION OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS. HITTING THIS ISSUE HARD MAY ALSO HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ELSEWHERE.

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